

XXXXXX AGENCY

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I am in receipt of your letter of September 29 regarding [redacted]. I can assure you that I share your respect for his competency and also your interest in his career in Government service. He is leaving this organization without prejudice and with our appreciation for the excellency of the work he has accomplished.

Your personal wish for my future success as Director of Central Intelligence is gratefully accepted.

Very truly yours,

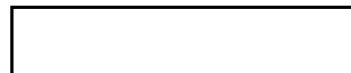
S/RN - Dec 10/2/47
R. H. HILLENKOTTER
Rear Admiral, USN
Director of Central Intelligence

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cc: Director's file ✓
Executive Registry
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September 29, 1947 Registered Mail

Roscoe H. Hillenkoetter, Rear Admiral USN
Director Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, D. C.

My dear Admiral Hillenkoetter:

I have just been informed of your decision in respect to the elimination of [] as Director of the []

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As a result of my association with this man, both in Washington in the early phases of World War II and subsequently when he was appointed Chief of [] it was my privilege to recognize that this man, having decided to devote his life as a professional public servant, was endowed with qualities which I believe our country is and was much in need of both qualitatively as well as quantitatively.

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Previous to the resignation of the then director of [] before V-E Day, I did what little I could to assure the appointment of [] as the Director of [] and later in 1946 provided in writing to the FBI as thorough an analysis of his background, qualifications and loyalty as was possible for me to do.

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Dr. Colin T. Herrick (one of my oldest friends) when in the Department of Applied Psychology at the University of Pennsylvania and now head of the Psychology Department at the University of Hawaii, said that of all of his students, [] appeared to have the greatest promise and he, Dr. Herrick, had endorsed and abetted [] decision to enter Government service. Much of that which Dr. Herrick told me of this young man was confirmed during my association with him over a period of several years during World War II.

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The reasons for the decision which have led you in your current responsibility to eliminate [] I, of course, am unqualified to comment on, but I am very much disturbed for fear that in so doing, the method which your organization has elected to use to discourage [] from public service may again provide to other young people a further excuse for not entering such public service, with the result that we as a country will continue to have to be satisfied with a large measure of mediocrity and banality as a requirement for this type of endeavor.

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I am well aware of the grave responsibilities which rest on you as the permanent head of the Central Intelligence Agency, and I will be grateful if you will accept my best wishes to attend your efforts in this responsibility.

Yours very truly,

Director
Executive Registry

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